(c) Number of proposals pending with the Regional Offices of the Ministry under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are as under:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | Regional Office, Bangalore | Nil |
| (2) | Regional Office, Bhubaneswar | 8 |
| (3) | Regional Office, Bhopal | 48 |
| (4) | Regional Office, Shilong | Nil |
| (5) | Regional Office, Chandigarh | 4 |
| (6) | Regional Office, Lucknow | 19 |

(d) Number of proposals pending with Regional offices under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for more than three months are as under:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | Regional Office, Bangalore | Nil |
| (2) | Regional Office, Bhubaneswar | 3 |
| (3) | Regional Office, Bhopal | 20 |
| (4) | Regional Office, Shilong | Nil |
| (5) | Regional Office, Chandigarh | Nil |
| (6) | Regional Office, Lucknow | 5 |

(e) As per Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 Rules & Guidelines cases which are complete in all respects are to be disposed of within 90 days by the Central Government. However, the delay usually takes place due to incomplete details furnished by the State Governments in their proposal. Progress of compensatory afforestation also needs to be speeded up*by the State Governments.

**Organisation of Second International Crop Science Congress**

1539. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Second International Crop Science Congress has been organised at New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof with objectives;

(c)_»(he1her some suggestions were given in the Conference; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with steps proposed to be taken by Government to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of the International Crop Science Congress was to assemble leaders of Crop Science Research from across the world and young scientists together to share knowledge and research technologies to impinge upon the endeavour of increasing Crop Productivity in an ecologically acceptable, sustainable and environmentally safe manner. This was achieved by developing a scientific programme which included five plenary lectures and eleven symposia where about 65 invited speakers made presentations, poster presentations by over 800 scientists and six Working Group discussions on topics of scientific and societal relevance.

(c) Technical suggestions abounded in the presentations made by the Plenary and Symposia speakers. Each session was accompanied by wide ranging discussions from the floor. The proceedings of the Congress will be brought out in print and will contain the details of the presentations and discussions. To cite one of the numerous examples is the call for increased Public and Private investment in infrastructure, such as roads and storage facilities to cater to increasing demands of improved crop production. There was a crying need, for mechanization as well as farmer friendly price structure for farm inputs like seeds, implements, fuel and power to enable farmer to fulfill the world's needs for food and fiber. An example of an experimental recommendation is interspecific hybridization for resistence to the deadly phylloxera of grapes.

(d) The printed proceedings containing the suggestions and recommendations of the Congress will be forwarded to Scientific organizations of the Country and will be received by the Govemment for appropriate follow-up action.

**Elimination of losses on Uneconomic Railway Lines**

1540. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps/decisions have been taken